From: Jeffrey Melnick
To: McGovern, Marc
Subject: Re: HP
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:34:47 AM

Thanks for the prompt and thoughtful response, Mark.

First of all, I'll say the obvious. You cannot tackle every human rights abuse at once, but when there is an organized boycott--initiated by the people most directly involved (as with 1980s anti-apartheid efforst that emanated from South Africa) that requires us to have a direct and concrete response. Otherwise we are in danger of being immobilized by "whataboutism" (why do something about Palestine when there are human rights abuses in Armenia, and China, and Baltimore?). We do what we can, when we can.

We don't direct Cambridge city police to look the other way when they see somebody committing a crime in North Cambridge because they are singling that person out while ignoring the abuses being carried out by someone at the same moment in East Cambridge.

FWIW I think the city should divest from any corporation or government with documented human rights abuses. And I recognize how thorny that is for sure.

all best,
Jeff

Jeffrey Melnick
Graduate Program Director
American Studies Department
University of Massachusetts Boston

From: McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Jeffrey Melnick
Subject: RE: HP

I'm not sure that this issue will come before the council. It was put out there by MA Against HP but I don't know of any councilor sponsoring it. I have to admit, as much as I agree that there are human rights issues going on, I am concerned and reluctant to put Cambridge in the middle of the BDS controversy. This has, however, raised a larger question for me and that is what relationships, financial or political, does the city have with companies or countries who

violate human rights? For example, we have a sister city relationship in China. China is a significant violator of human rights. We have a sister city relationship with Yerevan, Armenia. They have significant human rights violations. I think we need to not make this about HP and Israel and have a larger conversation about how the City makes these decisions and put some kind of process in place.

From: Jeffrey Melnick [mailto:Jeffrey.Melnick@umb.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:23 AM
To: McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: HP

Hello Mayor McGovern!

I hope this finds you well and enjoying these first glimmers of spring.

I've been trying to track the question of the HP referendum that was supposed to come in front of the council this coming Monday and that seems to have been postponed. I can't find any statement by you on this matter and just wanted to urge you to take seriously the possibility of the adopting the HP boycott measure. This is a time tested political and economic strategy that reaches back at least as far as the Kosher Meat Strike of 1902 when Jewish women on the Lower East Side boycotted butchers who had raised their prices in collusion. As an American Jew I'm inspired by this early action and committed to taking any action in the present that might, even in a small way, represent an acknowledgement of the humanity and equal rights of Palestinians.

All best
Jeff Melnick
Reed Street

Jeffrey Melnick
Graduate Program Director
American Studies Department
University of Massachusetts Boston